GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3208
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
GENES DATA BANK
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Data Bank to identify genes and thereby facilitate their patenting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of genes identified and patented as on December 31, 2004?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a), (b) & (c) No, Sir. No Genes data bank has been set up to identify genes and to facilitate their patenting. At present, genes are not patentable in India. However, the novel genes/DNA fragments with utility are patentable in some other countries.

(c) So far Indian scientists have identified around 120 genes of known function through projects supported by Department of Biotechnology.